

NEWSLETTER

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday story, is a human drama. When our Lord entered Jerusalem in his final week he took humanity with him and He continues to do at every Easter. It's not something we are remembering of what happened over two thousand years ago. As we partake in celebrating in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord as it happens today and for us.

As he enters the city, there is a huge wave of optimism, hope and joy. The people have lined the streets. They wave palm branches and place their cloaks and garments on the road and call out his name. Our Lord is welcomed as they do the Roman soldiers when they return from a successful campaign. Thus the crowd welcomes our Lord in a similar fashion as they shout out, *'Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!'*

It's amazing how quickly they turned on our Lord, the very people who welcomed him would soon scream for his death, 'Crucify him! Crucify him! Even his close friends, Peter denied him, 'Woman I do not know him'. The others have run away and our Lord is now alone.

There can be a danger of us getting lost in the liturgy of Palm Sunday and even Holy Week. It's easy to lose sight of what we are called to remember, to partake in and celebrate. with reverence, but most important of all we need to ask ourselves what it's all about and what it means to each one of us.

Question, Where am I in this unravelling drama which begins on Palm Sunday?

Which plays over Holy Week and climaxes at Easter. Where am I as our Lord passes me by on his donkey? Am I calling out his name or would I be like Judas who would soon betray him? Have I betrayed others or our Lord? When was I like Peter, Denied having ever known him? Or am I like Pilate when I judge and condemn others? When was I like Simon of Cyrene or Veronica who helped our Lord in his time of need? Having stood with the crowd shouting out his name and welcoming our Lord, will now stand with the same people expectorating insults as I call for him to be crucified.

As we come to celebrate Palm Sunday that begins our journey through Holy Week, we ask ourselves who and where we are in the crowd. This great week is a time for us to decide what kind of followers of our Lord we are going to be. During this busy week of prayer, liturgies and ceremonies, let's not lose sight of what we are remembering, partaking in and celebrating.

May our Lord be our strength and stay, as we begin this holy week, and may we enter the mystery of our Lord's life, death and resurrection with faith, hope and charity.

Fr. Christopher

Easter services AT ST EDMUND'S

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 18th April at 8pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 19th April at 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY - 20th April at 8.30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY—21st April - 11am

No morning Mass on Tue, 16th, Mon, 22nd, Tue, 23rd & Wed, 24th April.

MASS INTENTIONS

April 13, 2019

6pm - Ints of McDonald & Madden Families

April 14, 2019

9am - People of the Parish

11am—Joseph Francis

Silva RIP

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confessions on

Saturday at 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment

HOLY HOUR

No Holy Hour on 13&20 April

During LENT

we say the Apostle's Creed p. 12

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28th April—Marathon Sunday—
no Mass at 11 am (only at 9 am)

23 June—Parish BBQ

13 October— Parish One World Day

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD ON SATURDAY,

20th April at 11am



Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Isaiah 50: 4-7,
Psalm 21: 8-9, 17-20, 233-24, response v 2
2nd Reading - Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel – Luke 22; 14-23:56

1st Reading; Acts 10: 34, 37-43,
Psalm 117: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23, response v 24
2nd Reading - Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel – John 20; 1-9

SUGGESTED READING FOR LENT, read Chapter 13-17 of John's Gospel on Thursdays as a good way to prepare for Easter. These five Chapters could be read through the rest of the year as well. *Fr. Christopher*

The Seven Last Words

1. Father, Forgive them (Luke 23:34)

It's an unselfish prayer. He is concerned for you and me. Because my sins have crucified him and he is asking the Father to forgive me. He is not thinking of himself but is thinking of my soul which is in great peril. This tells me that even to the very last he loves me. By calling his Father he is inviting me to do the same and in Matthew when his disciples asks him to teach them how to pray, he gives them the perfect prayer 'Our Father. Our Lord', is expressing a trust by simply calling 'Father' he knows him, and is confident of the outcome. To be honest, it was I who sent him to the cross; my sins, my corruption, my weaknesses, my attachments, my idols, my slavery and my uncleanness.. I made the cross necessary and so it is for me he prays to be forgiven.

2. In truth I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23: 43)

The manner in which our Lord experienced the cross and faced death shone a light into the two thieves but each one drew different conclusions. One focused on his condition and from his perspective drew the conclusion that our Lord could liberate him from death on the cross. However, the other knew he was in need of forgiveness and our Lord epitomized it, he longed for life after death, and was convinced our Lord offered it. Sometime you and I can with our inferior motives, seek an advantage in this world; some others come knowing that our Lord's purpose is to get us safely to Heaven. What they thought was important no longer has any relevance as they faced death. Whatever the disappointments the penitent thief may have suffered, in our Lord on the Cross, he found in Him who create, awaken, faith in a kingdom that death could not touch. This shouldn't surprise us In our Lord's ministry many experienced renewal which summarised his whole ministry. You and I have sinned and we deserve God's judgment, he sent his only Son that we might believe in him who lived a sinless life, who loves us that he died for our sins, taking upon himself the punishment we deserve, who died and rose again. If we declare that that he is Lord you and I will be saved from judgement and spend eternity with him

3. 'Woman, this is your son' (John 19: 26-27)

Beloved disciple is now joined to Mary and Mary is appointed Mother of the Church and our Mother and the disciple is entrusted to care for his mother. Here I see our Lord's love. He is dying in agony and he sees his mother, who comforted him in his childhood could run to his mother who would wrap him in her protective arms and pour out her love. Now on the cross he sees her weeping, heartbroken and despite his agony his heart goes out to her, for he is touched by hers. We have to love our parents, sometimes they might misunderstand us-I recall those times when I made rash decisions my parents were disappointed in me and yet they stood by me. Our Lord too felt the hurt of misunderstanding from his family, re-call how in Mark (Mk 3:21, 31-35) 'He is out of his mind'. We are called to 'Honour your father and mother (Exodus 20:12). Even though my parents are dead and gone I still have to honour them in all that I say and do.

4. 'My God My God, why have you forsaken me' (Mark 15: 34)

It seems that our Lord has taken all of my sins upon himself and he is atoning for my sins. Why? He is the 'Lamb of God', who takes away the sins of the world (Jn 1:29) John could be referring the Passover Lamb, the ultimate sacrifice for the whole world (Exodus 12: 1-13). Our Lord's struggle to accomplish the father's plan of redemption intensifies in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke reminds us when he knelt down and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine' (Lk 22: 42). The cup is what our Lord takes upon himself my sins and yours to receive the judgment and punishment for our sins. His cry 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me' gives a glimpse of what it must have cost him to die for my sins and yours. It tells me the Father and Son loves us that they are willing to sever their love for each other. Maybe now we can understand this fourth Word from the cross,

5. 'I am Thirsty' (John 19: 28)

The greatest importance, of our Lord's word, 'I am Thirsty' reminds us of his humanity. There is no play acting here he was not pretending that the act of excruciating torture cannot touch him. On the contrary, it was physical suffering, of which thirst is one element that we could identify with from mine and yours. And John reminds us, 'This is the proof of the spirit of God: any spirit which acknowledges Jesus Christ, came in human nature, is from God, and no spirit which fails to acknowledge Jesus is from God; it is the spirit of Antichrist, whose coming you have heard of; he is already at large in the world' (1John 4: 2-3). Then again in (2 John 7) we are told by John, 'There are many deceivers at large in the world, refusing to acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in human nature. They are the Deceiver; they are the Anti-christ Watch yourself, or all your work will be lost and you will forfeit your full reward'. 'I am thirsty' reminds you and me that our Lord died in the flesh for our sins. Isaiah reminds us, 'Hence I shall give him a portion with the many, and he will share the booty with the mighty, for having exposed himself to death and for being counted as one of the rebellious, whereas he was bearing the sin of many and interceding for the rebellious' (Isaiah 53:12). John tells us, 'After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed and, so that scripture should be completely fulfilled, he said, I am thirsty' (John 19: 28).

6. 'It is fulfilled' (John 19: 30)

'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)

'For the Son of man has come to seek out and save what was lost' (Luke 19:10).'

'For the Son of man himself came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mark 10: 45).

From Matthew and Mark we learn that just before he breathed his last, he cried out again in a loud voice (Matthew 27:50 and Mark 15:37)

John tells us the content of this loud cry: 'It is fulfilled'

Those who are defeated go out with a moan, but the victor announces his victory boldly: 'It is fulfilled' The victory shout from our Lord echoed across the land and to the world beyond, It is fulfilled. Our Lord announces his total obedience, though equal with God:

'he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. And for this God raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all other names; so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, *should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acknowledge* Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2: 7).

I think we can learn here that our lives should be marked by obedience. Our Lord in his earthly life obeyed the Father 'he was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross' St Paul writing to the Galatians says, 'I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am alive; yet it is no longer I, but Christ living in me. The life that I am now living, subject to the limitations of human nature, I am living in faith, faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.. I am not setting aside God's grace as of no value; it is merely that if saving justice comes through the Law, Christ died needlessly' (Galatians 2: 20-21). So, we have to live our lives in obedience to God, not to ourselves. We have to suffer to achieve God's purpose for our lives. We all continue in our summer days as well as the stormy winters of our lives. We have to be steadfast and not give up when things are difficult. We have to be willing to suffer to complete the Father's plan for us in our lives. When our lives come to an end with our Lord we could boldly say, 'It is fulfilled'.

7, 'Father into your hands I commit my spirit'

(Luke 23: 46).

In Psalm 31 we read, 'to your hands I commit my spirit, by you have I been redeemed'. Our Lord called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. With these words he breathed his last'. It's not what we would expect from a man who is about to die. But our Lord is determined that his final words should be heard, and he gives it with such confidence.

Our Lord speaks to God his Father with such intimacy. He prays to the Father, he has done right throughout his ministry. For our Lord, death is not an out of control enemy. He is confident that the Father is with him-is present to receive his spirit. Our Lord entrusts himself completely to the Father. As he lets go of his life, our Lord entrusts his eternal life to the Father's everlasting arms. He gives up his human life to the Father who gave it to him all those years before. He is at peace because he knows the Father, and he knows there is life with the Father beyond death. Now for the last time-he lets go of his human life so he could embrace the life that the Father has to offer in his own presence. And we too with confidence pray, 'Father into your hands I commit my spirit'.

Fr. Christopher

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd= Relationship

I shall not want= Supply

He makes me lie down in green pastures=Rest

He leads me beside still waters=Refreshment

He restores my soul=Healing

he leads me in right paths=Guidance

for his name sake=Purpose

Even though I walk through the darkest valley=Testing

I fear no evil=Protection

for you are with me=Faithfulness

your rod and your staff-

they comfort me=Discipline

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my foes=Hope

You anoint my head with oil= Consecration

My cup overflows=Abundance

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life=Blessing

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long=Joy

(don't know the source but it's slightly adapted)

Fr. Christopher

There will be no Newsletter next week

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2019

Our Lenten Alms this year will go to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which this year has a special focus on food poverty. If you have not done so already, please pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of the church for more information. Please, read and pray for its aims, and if you choose to do so, please give generously. In our church you can put your donation into a box that is next to a door on the left hand side of the altar.

And this weekend we will have a second collection for Cardinal Lenten Appeal after each mass.

Fr Christopher

Volunteers are needed

Could you spare some time on Thursday morning, 18th April, between 10 & 11am, to help to set up the altar of Repose in the Hall. If you have some greenery that you might have in your garden that we could use, bring it on the day or leave it even in front of the church (in case you cannot be with us that morning). Please, come to help .. Thank you. *Fr Christopher*

Sewing Skills

Is there anyone in our parish community who is competent in sewing and would like to sew proper covers for our statues? If so, could you get in touch with Katherine or myself. Thanks. *Fr Christopher*



OUR LENTEN APPEAL

We need 300 items of supermarket own-brand food every week to help feed local people and families: (No Fresh, Frozen, or Chilled)

Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Long-Life Whole Milk, Tea, Small Coffee, 500g Sugar, Breakfast Cereals, Porridge, Pasta, Rice, Sauce, Oil, Tinned Custard, Rice Pudding, Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste. HELP US HELP OTHERS

Diocese of Westminster
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall
297 Westferry Road, Millwall. E14 3RS
Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk



Fr Christopher Silva
Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka
Parish Secretary

The office may be contacted by phone:
Monday to Friday 9am-2pm
Closed on Bank Holidays

NEW PARISHIONERS — Please fill in a “Registration Form” from the Church porch and hand it in to the Office or to the Parish Priest.

BLESSING OF HOMES — Contact the Parish Secretary to book a date and time.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND — Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange for a visit from the Caring & Sharing Group.

BAPTISMS — Parents must attend a 2-session Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – **Next baptismal course will be on Mon 13 May & Mon 20 May 2019 - 7.30pm.** Please, call the office to reserve your space. Please, note that all baptism will be during Mass.

WEDDINGS — Contact the Parish Priest by email or letter, **even if you wish to be married elsewhere.** Please give full names, contact details, religion of each party and whether or note either of you has been married before. The Church normally requires six months notice of weddings.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO INTO HOSPITAL? — If you are admitted as a patient, please ensure the Chaplains’ Office is informed you would like to be visited by a Catholic Minister. This has to be done by you or a relative.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS — The Parish is completely committed to the protection from abuse of all children and vulnerable adults in its care. The Parish Protection Officer is Mrs Diane Winship and she should be contacted directly on 07799-414-806 if you have cause for concern. The Diocesan Protection Officer may be contacted on 020-7798-9350/07803-634-236, by email to arianna.sommariva@rcdow.org.uk or at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN.

AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER — The newsletter is available electronically, enabling you to remain in touch even when you are away on holiday or on business—as well as reducing our ecological footprint. Email the Parish Secretary to arrange to added to the distribution list.

LOOP SYSTEM —The Church is fitted with “Loop” sound systems – please switch to ‘T’.

TEXT GIVING — Simply type: Parish (then space) then MILLW. Send it to 70800. Click send. £5 will be added to your mobile phone bill, as a donation to the parish.

NEW SETS OF DONATION ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH,
BEFORE AND AFTER EACH MASS (during a week - from the office).

If you spot any mistake, please, let me know immediately.

If you want to donate in envelopes and to gift aid your donations, but have not arranged for it so far, you can let me know via an email and I will prepare a box for you.

Katherine

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 411.24 envelopes: 467.34 total: **878.58**

Thank you for your Generosity WRCDT Charity No: 233699

**ST EDMUND’S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Westferry Road, Millwall E14 3RS
020 7987 2546

**BISHOP CHALLONER
COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS**
Commercial Road, London E1 0AB
020 7791 9500